Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
State Forest Resource Management Guide Public Comment Summary

management affects rate of carbon sequestration.

Francis Slocum State Forest Compartment 2 Tract 1 Comment Review: 5/2/2018 Comments Received: 11

The table below is a summary of public comments received concerning the draft Resource Management Guide (DRMG). The public comments received have been reviewed in their entirety and given due consideration summarized in the Division of Forestry response below.

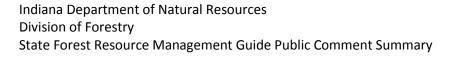
Division of Forestry Response Comment Summary Opposes the harvest prescription within the DRMG due to Comment period clarification: The 30 public comment period for web potential impacts to plants, animals, habitat, aesthetics, posted Resource Management Guides begins the day of posting and runs recreation and ecological services. for the following 30 days. Questions need for a forest harvest and timber market Compartment and Tract boundaries can be found at: conditions. Generally oppose timber utilization on State http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/3635.htm The INdianaMap.org site Forest. contains a managed lands layer indicating property boundaries, but not Concern on background water quality within the watershed, management units which are subject to periodic change. steep slopes and potential impacts to soil and water Habitats, communities and species are considered as part of the resources and the effective implementation of BMPs. management planning process. Along with field observations, Natural Questions if logging trucks are required to observe legal road heritage data has been reviewed to check for threatened or endangered load limits. bird and wildlife species on or near the management unit. Detailed flora, Concern on potential impacts regarding invasive species (bush fauna and landscape level habitat inventories are beyond the scope of honeysuckle, autumn olive), Ash resiliency and spread of EAB. tract level management guides. Locations of RTE species are not Would like to see increase efforts against invasives. disclosed for protective purposes. Further information on direct and Concern on potential presence of and impacts to RTE species, indirect impacts on species and habitats are found in the Indiana State Forest Environmental Assessment. depth of wildlife inventories and disclosure of RTE species http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-StateForests EA.pdf identified on the tract. Snags and habitat (legacy) trees are considered at the tract and Encourages the retention of dead and dying trees for snags and other ecological benefits. Would like more information compartment level. The prescribed management supports this habitat on snag density projections before and after proposed and structural diversity and abundance targets across the landscape. Best management practices, including slope considerations, will be management activities. implemented and monitored to address the soil erosion, sedimentation Would like more detail about which areas will be treated with group selection versus single tree selection. And, impact of and water quality concerns. BMPs will be required of operator and deer browse on hardwood regeneration success. included in timber sales contracts. Karst features were not noted in this tract. DoF will respond to reported BMP departures. BMP guidance can Concern on carbon sequestration and how the proposed

be found at: http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-

- Concern on potential impacts to recreation opportunities as a result of the proposed management activities.
- Contends State Forests have requirement to demonstrate market need for timber, consider slope steepness, and conserve State Forests for future generations.
- Suggests DOF provide the exact deadline for public comments.
- Suggests compartment and tract shapefiles be available via INdianaMap.org

2005 Forestry BMP Field Guide.pdf

- Road weight limits are enforced by State and local authorities.
- Indiana State Forests contain approximately 1.15 billion board feet of timber. Managed harvest levels on State Forests are set at a level to insure long term sustainability. These levels are periodically reviewed as new inventory data is collected. Growth on this tract are expected to meet or exceed harvest levels over time. Timber markets remain positive at time of this review. See http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State Forest CFI Report 2010 2014.pdf
- Invasive species presence and control needs are incorporated in the management guide. The species noted are widespread in the County.
- EAB is now found in nearly all of Indiana's 92 counties and widespread
 across Indiana forests. State Forests are a relatively small part of the
 forest make up in Indiana. While the prescription will remove many
 infected Ash trees it will not slow the spread of EAB, nor remove all
 affected Ash. The remaining dead and dying Ash will provide temporary
 wildlife benefits. Prescribed regeneration opening will capture some ash
 seed and regeneration which will escape the initial wave of EAB.
 Recruiting Ash regeneration is an expected and desired outcome of group
 selection silviculture.
- Group selection silviculture is expected to be used on less than 10% of this tract exclusive of the non-native pine areas. Regeneration is expected to include a broad mix of native hardwood species. Deer herbivory does impact forest regeneration to some degree. However, with the active hunting and rapid, dense regrowth response found on State Forest lands regeneration of mixed hardwoods is expected to exceed to target level of 1,000 seedlings per acre.
- Assessing climate change and carbon sequestration is beyond the scope of tract level RMGs.
- The quantity of horse trails in the tract greatly exceed DNR trail density policy and site sustainability. Long term trail impacts at these levels is an issue. Trail access and recreation access may be limited during



- management activity periods for safety. Trail density is a pending issue for resolution.
- State Forest management is guided by science and implementation of sound silvicultural principles to insure long term forest health and sustainability. State Forest management also adheres to legal mandates and voluntary compliance to comprehensive forest certification standards.
- The prescribed management activities are consistent with silvicultural principles, promotes habitat diversity and supported by inventory data and field assessments. The concerns expressed have been considered and may be further addressed during plan implementation.